



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## Minutes 11/18/2010

V2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP  
Meeting Minutes 11/18/10

ATTENDEES: Heather Remoff, David Garbarino, Pete Howard (Acting Chair)

REVIEW OF PROJECT IDEAS: The project ideas that were discussed last month and judged to be worth following up were grouped by our chair into Report Generation, Property Tax Analysis, Reserve/Policy Analysis, Efficiencies and Regionalization.

LAND VALUE TAX: Heather has discussed application to Arlington with Josh Vincent of the Center for the Study of Economics and Al Hartheimer, an architect who teaches a course in Georgian Economics at Williams. Both are LVT proponents. Josh has offered to study Arlington for \$500 and the assessment records. The LVT shift has been applied with some success to cities that have lost their manufacturing base. After some discussion, we listed some questions we'd like to know more about before proceeding:

Is there a legal impediment to levying a different tax rate on land and on the improvements on the land?

Has any community like Arlington (densely settled, almost no industry, small commercial tax base, almost no unused parcels) levied a LVT shift?

Did the "Smart Growth" movement of the 1990s include this idea?

Would a LVT shift encourage teardowns?

If Heather can get some answers, Pete will try to arrange a meeting w/ Carol Kowalski, Town Planner either on a Thursday evening between 5 & 7 or perhaps invite her to a FRTG meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Will be monthly on 3d Thursday unless otherwise scheduled. Members should set aside 12/16, 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/19

NEXT MEETING - Thu Dec 16 at 7.30pm - Location Town Hall Annex-1st Floor